



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol • 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard • Saint Paul, MN 55155

7243 704 JUN -1 12:48

VIA FACSIMILE

April 7, 2004

Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S.
Surgeon General of the United States
Office of the Surgeon General
5600 Fishers Lane #18-67
Rockville, MD 20857

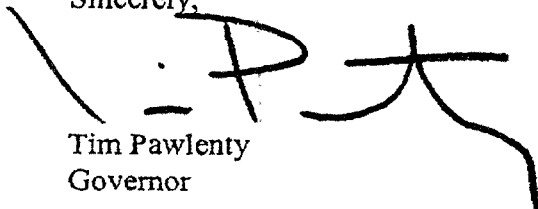
Dear Surgeon General Carmona:

I appreciate you and Secretary Thompson taking the time to meet with me last Thursday. It was a pleasure to finally meet you, and I certainly enjoyed the tour of the command center that you and the Secretary gave me. Seeing the inner workings of the nation's fight against biological and chemical terrorism, including serious health threats such as west Nile virus, dangerous strains of influenza, and other lethal health threats, made me realize the immensity of the challenges before you. Please know that as one of the nation's fifty governors, I very much appreciate all of the work you do to keep us safe.

As we also discussed at our meeting, I am thankful that you and the Secretary plan to invite me to speak before the Task Force on Drug Importation on Wednesday, May 5, 2004, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at FDA headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. I know that you will give me an open and fair hearing, and I look forward to providing you Minnesota's perspective on the issue.

Once again, Surgeon General Carmona, it was my pleasure to meet with you last Thursday. I look forward to seeing you again in a few weeks.

Sincerely,



Tim Pawlenty
Governor

2004N-0115

LET 1